

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13728

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, JA

SUBJECT: JAPANESE VIEWS ON FRIENDLY TACTICS ON KOREA IN 31ST UNGA

SUMMARY: FONOFF IS DISMAYED BY REPORT THAT ROK
FONMIN HAS TOLD PRESS ROK WILL WORK FOR DEFERRAL
OF KOREA QUESTION. FONOFF EXPECTS THAT ROK STATEMENT
WILL BE READ AS ADMISSION OF FRIENDLY SIDE'S WEAKNESS.
FONOFF ALSO APPREHENSIVE THAT US VETO OF VIETNAM
UN MEMBERSHIP WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT FRIENDLY CHANCES
ON KOREA QUESTION. NOTWITHSTANDING, FONOFF SEEMS
IN WAKE OF PANMUNJOM INCIDENT AND COLOMBO NAC
RATHER MORE CONFIDENT THAT FRIENDLY SIDE WILL GAIN
GROUND IN THIS YEAR'S CONFRONTATION. END SUMMARY.

1. EARLY IN CALL BY AMEMBASSY SEOUL POLCOUNS
CLEVELAND ON MOFA UN BUREAU LEADERS, DIRGEN OKAWA
SUMMARIZED CABLE JUST RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE EMBASSY,
SEOUL, TO EFFECT THAT ROK FONMIN PARK TONG JIN HAS
TOLD PRESS THAT ROK WILL WORK FOR DEFERRAL OF BOTH
UNGA RESOLUTIONS ON KOREA. STATEMENT REPORTEDLY
MADE DURING KIMPO AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE ON EVENING
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OF SEPTEMBER 11 AS PARK DEPARTING FOR US.

2. OKAWA SAID HE WAS STARTLED AND DISMAYED THAT PARK HAS LINKED ROK TO INCIPIENT DEFERRAL MOVE, DEFERRAL CAN SUCCEED, OKAWA ARGUED, ONLY IF POSITIONS OF TWO SIDES SEEN AS APPROXIMATELY EQUAL. PUBLIC ROK ENDORSEMENT OF DEFERRAL TACTIC WAS GROSSLY PREMATURE AND WILL, HE THOUGHT, BE INTERPRETED AS ADMISSION OF FRIENDLY WEAKNESS. IRONICALLY, OKAWA CONTINUED, PARK'S DISCLOSURE MAY HAVE EFFECT OF SOURING CORE GROUP ON TACTIC.

3. REFERRING TO DISCUSSION OF DEFERRAL TACTIC IN CORE GROUP AND AT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS HERE SEPTEMBER 8 OKAWA SAID HE PRESUMED THAT US WILL REACT TO PARK'S STATEMENT IN MUCH SAME WAY. CLEVELAND AGREED THAT STATEMENT AS REPORTED BY JAPANESE WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE.

4. OKAWA SAID THAT JAPAN DID NOT EXCLUDE FRIENDLY AGREEMENT TO A THIRD, "NEUTRAL" RESOLUTION ONCE FRIENDLY SIDE HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS IN STRONG POSITION, E.G., AFTER BOTH FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE RESOLUTIONS HAD BEEN ENDORSED BY FIRST COMMITTEE. UP TO SUCH A POINT, HOWEVER, OKAWA EMPHASIZED, OUR SIDE MUST CAMPAIGN HARD FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND SEEK TO INDUCE SLIPPAGE IN SUPPORT FOR HOSTILE RESOLUTION. ALTHOUGH IN FONOFF VIEW IT WOULD BE QUIXOTIC TO TRY TO TURN VOTES ON HOSTILE RESOLUTION FROM FOR TO AGAINST, ETC., HE ADDED, IT SEEMED CLEAR IN WAKE OF COLOMBO NAC THAT WE MAY HOPE THAT SOME DPRK SUPPORTERS IN 30TH UNGA WILL ABSTAIN THIS YEAR, AND SOME ABSTAINERS MAY POSSIBLY BE SWUNG TO NEGATIVE VOTE.

5. SUMMARIZING, OKAWA SAID HE THOUGHT THE OUTLOOK ON THE KOREA QUESTION THIS YEAR IS SLIGHTLY BETTER THAN LAST, THOUGH HE DOUBTED THAT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION CAN BE BEATEN.

6. TOWARD END OF CONVERSATION, OKAWA EXPRESSED
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AGAIN FONOFF APPREHENSION THAT "THERE IS NOTHING KIM IL SUNG WOULD LIKE BETTER THAN TO SEE THE US VETO VIETNAM'S UN APPLICATION."
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